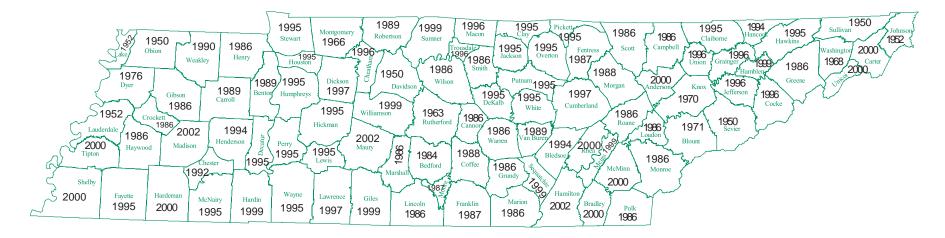
## Local Records Microfilming Program

A security and preservation microfilming program for local government records was initiated by the Tennessee State Library and Archives (TSLA) in 1961. The Local Records Microfilming Program was put in place over the years by various state librarians and archivists and operated by the Preservation Services section of TSLA. The program is one of the largest and most comprehensive state micrographics operations in the country, overseeing all aspects from filming, developing and printing the film to distributing copies and maintaining the negatives.

TSLA has filmed the bound permanent-value records of all but a handful of Tennessee counties through 1986; twenty counties have been microfilmed through 1999. Counties are in various stages of microfilming according to the current projects of the Local Records Program (see map). Larger metropolitan counties (Shelby, Hamilton, and Knox) have their own preservation microfilming programs, and six other counties have partial preservation programs—usually in the register of deeds office.



TSLA filming of permanent county records developed in accordance with state law provisions authorizing the state archives to produce security copies of the permanent historic records of the counties (Tennessee Code §10-7-511). The program targets all major bound record types—deeds, wills, marriages, tax books, minute books and the miscellaneous records of chancery, circuit, and county courts. Additionally, so-called "loose records"—court case files and unbound wills and marriage records—have been filmed in twenty-three counties and are currently being filmed in seven other counties. These microfilmed records are open to public inspection according to the provisions of Tennessee's public records law.

At present, 38,136 reels of microfilm of county records have been filmed through the preservation microfilm program and stored at TSLA. An additional 13,404 reels of county-generated records film are maintained in the state archives' vault. At least one set of the microfilmed county records is given free of charge to the main county library or archives, and the Tennessee State Library & Archives keeps another set available for public inspection. TSLA also stores the negative version of these records and makes positive copies available to the public for a fee.